

A REVIEW OF CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS
IN FISHERIES FOR LIVE BAIT IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

By

Richard N. Uchida

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a brief description of the pole-and-line and live-bait fisheries in the eastern, central, and western Pacific and reviews the historical catch and effort statistics that were collected in fisheries for tuna baitfishes. A review of the statistical system is also included.

EASTERN PACIFIC FISHERY

The eastern Pacific tropical tuna fishery under the present fleet composition is essentially a purse-seine fishery, but prior to 1959, the fishery was predominantly a live-bait fishery. In 1948, of 118,752 M.T. of skipjack, Katsuwonus pelamis, and yellowfin, Thunnus albacares, landed by the eastern Pacific fleet, about 84% were caught by baitboats. By 1960, the proportion of the tunas taken by baitboats dropped to about 40% as the "purse seine revolution" launched a mass conversion of baitboats to seiners. In recent years, only about 10% of the tunas are landed by baitboats. Table 1 shows the number of baitboats and seiners operating the eastern Pacific in 1950-72.

Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service,
NOAA, Honolulu, HI 96812.

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